

## JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, today the Senate will continue doing what we have been doing all week, working to confirm as many of President Biden's well-qualified judicial nominees as possible.

Yesterday, we confirmed two more district court judges for the Northern District of New York—Anthony Brindisi, a proud son of Utica whom I worked with closely when he was a member of Congress, and Beth Coombe, a trailblazing prosecutor.

Later this morning, we will vote to confirm Sarah Davenport to be district court judge for the District of New Mexico. Following that, we will vote to advance the nominations of two more judges: Tiffany Johnson to be the district court judge for the Northern District of Georgia and Keli Neary to be district court judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

So of the five judges I filed cloture on Monday, we will have confirmed three by the end of today, and we will be very close to confirming the remaining two. While Democrats still hold the majority, we are going to do everything we can to confirm as many judges as we can.

## TRIBUTE TO GEORGE S. HELMY

Mr. President, now, on Senator HELMY, today we say thank you and farewell to another member of our caucus, the junior Senator from New Jersey, Senator GEORGE HELMY. Senator HELMY will resign this weekend to make way for our new colleague, Senator-elect ANDY KIM, who we are all very excited to get to work with.

In a very short amount of time, Senator HELMY put his name on over 30 pieces of legislation, advocated for children's mental health, stood up for the well-being of the people of New Jersey, across America, and around the world. I would also be remiss if I didn't point out that Senator HELMY never hesitated to preside during pro forma sessions, a thankless but necessary job.

Senator HELMY's service will also be remembered for its historical significance. He was the first Senator from the Coptic Church. Senator HELMY's faith had an immediate and direct impact here in the Senate when he invited His Grace Bishop David of the Diocese of New York and New England to the Senate a few weeks ago to deliver the first ever Senate opening prayer by a member of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

So Senator HELMY, congratulations on a job well-done. You made New Jersey proud. We wish you and your family the best.

## TRIBUTE TO MITT ROMNEY

Mr. President, finally, I wish to pay tribute and say thank you to a colleague from across the aisle, Senator MITT ROMNEY, who delivered his farewell address yesterday. I enjoyed meeting Senator ROMNEY's family, his sons and his wife, at his reception the other night and told him how much I respected him and how much we will miss him in the Senate.

On most issues, Senator ROMNEY and I may have seemed like oil and water. But I have always appreciated him for his decency, his commitment to our country, and his willingness to work in good faith in a bipartisan way when the chance presented itself. And over the last 4 years, we found numerous ways to do just that.

Senator ROMNEY was a good partner with me on COVID relief legislation, despite much opposition from the other side. And he helped build consensus on the infrastructure bill. He also remains a fierce defender of the Ukrainian people.

Finally, I will always appreciate that Senator ROMNEY joined me, alongside Senators ROSEN, KELLY, and CASSIDY, on our mission to Israel in the aftermath of October 7. So thank you, Senator ROMNEY, and I wish you and your family the best in a new chapter in your life.

## NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, a few days ago I sent Senator THUNE a letter asking that we go through the regular advice and consent process. That meant full FBI investigations of every nominee, the Senate be able to look at those, hearings with questions in the Senate on every nominee, and then votes on the floor.

I am glad to see that at least the President-elect's administration is beginning to look at the FBI investigation issue, and that is a small step in the right direction. But we must have them for all nominees, they must be full FBI investigations, and they must be available for Senators to look at. And, of course, the necessity of hearings for each nominee, the necessity of votes on each nominee are just consonant with the advice and consent process that we have done in America for decades and decades and decades under Democratic and Republican Presidents and the like.

I hope there will be no deviation from that grand and useful tradition.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican whip.

## TRIBUTE TO MITT ROMNEY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one of the drawbacks of the end of a Congress is the need to say goodbye to departing colleagues. We are losing two Republicans this year—Senators MITT ROMNEY and MIKE BRAUN.

MITT gave his farewell remarks yesterday, and they were characteristic of the man I have come to know: humble, faith-filled, patriotic. MITT is what I would call a character guy. He is guided by a moral compass, and he is not afraid to live by it. And in a world

where being religious isn't always highly regarded, he is unapologetic about his faith.

MITT is also a big family guy. Like me, he married up, and he and his wife Ann have shared the good times and the tough times for well now over 50 years of marriage—hard to believe to look at him. But they say children keep you young, and MITT has 5 sons and an incredible 25 grandchildren—a beautiful legacy all on its own.

MITT's professional legacy needs no recounting. He is well known as a successful businessman, a successful Republican Governor of a deep-blue State, and most recently as a successful Senator. He may be leaving us after just one term, but that term was filled with an outsized amount of work, and he has more than earned his retirement.

## TRIBUTE TO MIKE BRAUN

Mr. President, in addition to MITT, MIKE BRAUN is leaving us at the end of this Congress, in his case to go and serve as the Governor of Indiana. MIKE is another guy who has had an outsized impact here in the Senate in a short amount of time. In fact, he was named the most effect first-term Republican Senator in the 117th Congress—and no surprise.

It was clear from the beginning that MIKE came here because he wanted to get things done. Now he will bring that same drive and effectiveness—the drive and effectiveness that helped him grow a small business with 15 employees into a national company—to his work as Governor of Indiana. I have no doubt at all that the State will thrive under his leadership.

As I may have told MIKE, "Hoosiers" is one of my top five movies of all time, which has automatically made me a big fan of the Hoosier State. So I look forward to seeing all the great things that are going to happen to Indiana during his tenure. I know he will be incredibly busy as Governor, especially because MIKE is a guy that gives his all to what he does—witness the fact that he has visited all 92 of Indiana's counties every year during his time here in the Senate.

But I hope he will still find time for his beloved mushroom hunting, and I know he will be finding time to spend with his wife Maureen and their four children—three of whom work for the family business—as well as with their seven grandchildren.

MIKE, congratulations on your election as Governor. It has been a pleasure to work with you here in the Senate, and I look forward to seeing all the great things you will do in Indiana.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE  
CALENDAR

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Mark Eskenazi's and Amanda Wood Laihow's nominations to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

I want to note for my colleagues that the Commission has not had a quorum since April of 2023 and, as a result, has been unable to decide cases for more than a year. Delays with the Commission's cases create significant risks to workers, and that is, in part, because, when an employer appeals a citation, they don't have to fix the alleged hazard until the Commission issues a final decision.

Mr. Eskenazi is currently an Assistant General Counsel at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and previously has held numerous positions at the National Labor Relations Board.

This is Ms. Wood Laihow's second nomination to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. She was previously confirmed in January of 2020. Prior to her role on this Commission, she has served as the director of labor and employment policy for the National Association of Manufacturers and as deputy general counsel for the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

I support this bipartisan pair of nominees that will allow the Commission to have a quorum, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 374 and 785; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I am disappointed that my Republican colleague has blocked the confirmations of these nominees. These nominees have been held up since last year, and it is time to end these delays and confirm these nominees.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

## NOMINATION OF SARAH MORGAN DAVENPORT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Sarah Davenport to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico.

Ms. Davenport's impressive career as a dedicated public servant for nearly two decades, combined with her Federal court experience, will make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

After earning her bachelor of music from New Mexico State University and her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law, Ms. Davenport began her legal career at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, where she has spent the entirety of her career.

Ms. Davenport first served as a law clerk for the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Unit. She then served as a special assistant U.S. attorney, where she prosecuted drug trafficking, immigration, and firearms offenses. In 2009, Ms. Davenport became an assistant U.S. attorney, primarily handling complex drug trafficking and money laundering investigations.

Since 2022, she has served as a supervisory assistant U.S. attorney, where she oversees prosecutors in her office who handle immigration, firearms, drug trafficking, white collar, and violent crime offenses.

Ms. Davenport has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. HEINRICH and Mr. LUJÁN. In addition, Ms. Davenport was rated unanimously "qualified" by the American Bar Association.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Davenport's nomination.

## VOTE ON DAVENPORT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Davenport nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 314 Ex.]

## YEAS—52

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Collins	Hassan
Brown	Coons	Heinrich
Butler	Cortez Masto	Helmy
Cantwell	Duckworth	Hickenlooper

Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
King  
Klobuchar  
Luján  
Manchin  
Markey  
Merkley  
Murkowski  
Murphy

Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith

Stabenow  
Tester  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

## NAYS—45

Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Braun  
Britt  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Ernst

Fischer  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hoeben  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Marshall  
McConnell  
Mullin

Paul  
Ricketts  
Risch  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

## NOT VOTING—3

Moran

Sinema

Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 845, Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator